

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last paragraph beginning at page 24, line 18 to page 25, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The fence logic may further ready the configuration master for corrective procedures. To this end, the configuration master backup may initiate notification procedures at block 94. Suitable procedures may apprise operators of the potentially disruptive situations. In response, an operator may repair or replace the configuration master at block 96, and the configuration master backup may release the fence at block 98 and resume monitoring a heartbeat signal at block 90.